central apex raised above the rim in a first direction, the outer rim having a large enough diameter relative to the diameter of the hole that the rim expands radially outward to engage the hole wall upon application of an axial force applied in the first direction to the rim and a second axial force applied in a second opposing direction to the central apex.

Please amend Claim 3. as follows (clean copy):

3.) (Amended) A device according to claim 2, further comprising two or more similarly shaped elements assembled on top of each other with the apex of each facing in the same direction, and with a sealing disc formed of elastomer sealing material inserted between two elements.

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Please amend Claim 4. as follows (clean copy):

4.) (Amended) A device per claim 2, wherein the element is formed as a cone or dome shaped transverse bottom at one end of a cylinder, the other end comprising a radially outwardly projecting shoulder having a greater diameter than the hole.

Please amend Claim 5. as follows (clean copy):

5. (Amended) A device to reduce a hole having a wall of surrounding material and a predetermined inside diameter, the device comprising at least one element with a frustaconical disc shaped surface and a generally uniform thickness, having a base and a top, with a radially outer rim forming the base with a smaller diameter than the hole and a central opening at the top, the outer rim having a large enough diameter relative to the diameter of the hole that the rim expands radially outward to engage the hole wall upon application of an axial force applied to the rim in a first direction toward the top and a

A1

second axial force applied against the top in a second opposing direction toward the rim.

Please cancel Claims 6 and 7, without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 8. as follows (clean copy):

8.) (Amended) The device per claim 5, wherein the diameter of the central opening is larger than the diameter of a tube end and small enough that upon application of an axial force applied to the rim in the first direction toward the top and a second axial force applied against the top in the second opposing direction toward the rim, the central opening reduces to engage the wall of the tube end.

A2

Please cancel Claim 9, without prejudice.

Please add new Claim 10. as follows:

Claim 10. A device in accord with claim 5, wherein the element further comprises a second similarly frustaconical surface with a central opening, inverted with respect to the first surface such that the top of the second surface faces a second opposite axial direction toward the first surface, and the first and second surfaces are joined proximate to the central opening.

A3

Please add new Claim 11. as follows:

Claim 11. A device in accord with claim 10, wherein the element further comprises an annulus of elastomer inserted and retained between the first and second surfaces.